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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/ 25X1

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Cottbus 616851

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 18 February 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. On 29 January 1954, the Alvensleben Kaserne in Cottbus was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Six light field guns were seen in the barracks yard; and a rocket launcher drove toward the installation. Only little gun drill and close-order drill were observed. 25X1

2. On 29 January, the Hermann Loens Kaserne was occupied by about 1,800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. Two canvas-covered tanks were standing in the barracks yard. Intensive training activity was observed. Up to 300 EM did entrenching, firing practice, and close-order drill. 25X1

3. On 29 January, the Sachsendorf Kaserne was occupied by 1,800 to 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. 25X1 up to 300 EM engaged in entrenching, firing practice, and close-order drill at the installation. Other soldiers received sharpshooter training and practiced with 3 x 57-mm AT guns. 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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25X1

4. On 29 January, the Dissenchen Kaserne was occupied by 1,400 to 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia, including some soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets. About 30 trucks with soldiers , including 13 trucks towing artillery pieces, left the installation. Up to 300 EM received field training, and about 100 EM were engaged in the enlargement of the training grounds. On 26 January two artillery pieces of about 120 mm emplaced at the training grounds, and several soldiers who practiced with light mortars. Numerous new armored jeep-like vehicles, with a machine gun mounted on top of the drivers' cabin, were also seen. 25X1

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6. On 4 February, the Hermann Loens Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. In the morning, soldiers drilled, and four T-34/85 tanks practiced driving in the area west of the installation. About 60 EM were practicing with 6 x 82-mm mortars in the same area. At about 1:30 p.m., four tanks practiced driving, and about 200 troops with red-bordered black epaulets received field training in the area south of the Hermann Loens Kaserne. 25X1

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7. At about 9:30 a.m. on 4 February, about 100 soldiers, including two thirds with black-bordered crimson and one third with red-bordered black epaulets, marched from the Cottbus railroad station toward the Alvensleben Kaserne. The soldiers carried carbines, submachine guns and light field pack.

Comment. The present information confirms the distribution of components of the 9th Mecz Div stationed in Cottbus. No information on the transfer of a mechanized regiment ofthe division to Wuensdorf could be obtained in Cottbus. 25X1

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